

# Marybank Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Marybank Primary School  
Ord Road  
Marybank  
Muir of Ord  
IV6 7UN

Telephone: 01997 433320

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

27 August 2018

**Service provided by:**

Highland Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2003001693

**Service no:**

CS2003017242

## About the service

The nursery is located in a de-mountable building in the grounds of Marybank Primary School. Accommodation comprised of a large bright playroom with a shared foyer, kitchen and walk in storage area and toilet provision. There is a playground and school garden area that the nursery shares with the school. The nursery also uses school facilities for energetic play.

This service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011. The service is operated by Highland Council education department and managed by the primary school head teacher. It is registered to provide a childcare service to 17 children from three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

## What people told us

"My son and his brothers all loved going to Marybank nursery. We are always amazed at all the things they do and learn. All the children are so happy there and there is a really lovely atmosphere thanks to the wonderful staff."

"My experience has been very good. The staff at Marybank are exceptional."

"A wonderful setting. My four year old has been at nursery nearly two years and he thoroughly enjoys the sessions. The staff are approachable and knowledgeable, nurturing and fun. I am very happy with the nursery and have no issues, my son has always been safe and happy there."

"Excellent nursery and staff. My child is always excited, happy and looks forward to going. I am positive my child is well cared for and love seeing her progress through her learning journey with photos and information."

One parent spoken to on the day of inspection had chosen this local authority nursery due to its size and friendly approach. They were very happy with the quality of care and support and found communication with staff to be excellent. Their children were very happy at the nursery and the activities provided were enjoyed by the children. They found that their children learned a lot in this environment and that the staff had made excellent relationships with their children.

## Self assessment

We did not ask for a self assessment before this inspection. We asked to view the service's development plan and had taken this into consideration.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

## What the service does well

We observed a positive, caring ethos within the nursery with staff providing a warm, nurturing environment. Children were encouraged to make choices and on the day of inspection they had decided when and how long to play outside along with what equipment was to be accessed. This resulted in children; problem solving, socialising, working as a team and investigating. The member of staff encouraged them to try different approaches, asked them pertinent questions and suggested ideas and processes that would extend their learning.

'All about me' documents were in place and they contained good information on children's likes and dislikes along with any medical needs. Best practice suggests that these documents are reviewed every six months to ensure their accuracy and changing needs. This information helped staff care for and support children's individual needs while they attended the service.

Learning journeys contained examples of the children's development and learning and were shared with parents when they attended 'stay and play' sessions and open days. Encouraging parents to read them at the end of each month may encourage additional participation.

Staff knew children very well and comforted the young children when required, gave the older children responsibility and generally supported them as individuals. We asked staff to consider using terms of endearment when communicating with children and suggest using names at all times is more respectful.

Praise was appropriately given during the session along with encouragement and nurturing support. Children responded by being relaxed, exploring their environment and chatting to staff about their thoughts and experiences.

We concluded that children were very safe and secure within their environment and that their contributions were welcomed and valued.

During the inspection we saw staff encourage, support and praise the children as they practised their new skills around the garden. Staff celebrated with the children as two children rode their bicycles around the garden for the first time unaided. Throughout the inspection we heard children being encouraged and praised, building their confidence and self-esteem. Staff supported children to be independent, using good observational skills to offer support when needed.

Healthy lifestyles were encouraged at the service with daily opportunities for active play and healthy eating promoted. Outdoor play was a big part of the children's day and a range of environments were available to the children.

Resources were organised to allow children easy access and gain confidence and independence while making choices about how they spent their time at the nursery. A variety of resources were available for the age and stage of development of the children attending. Children's interests were encouraged and provided for. Staff discussed how they were continuing to support the older children who were about to enter primary one and the provision of challenging activities and experiences as needed to maintain interest and motivation.

Children had been involved in planting, cooking produce as well as learning about the importance of eating fruit and vegetables.

The nursery and school very much mixed together due to the small numbers of pupils, and transition to the primary school was occurring organically on a daily basis with pupils sharing equipment and rooms.

## What the service could do better

We found that there was a very good standard of care within the nursery and attending was a positive experience for children and their families. We suggest that some of the covers over equipment is removed for children to see and use, and that a gradual transition from plastic to natural materials continues. We are aware that new systems for planning and recording learning are taking place within the nursery and that making comment at this time would not be helpful.

The toilets and nappy changing facilities within the nursery are very poor and keeping them clean and hygienic would be impossible due to the multiple surfaces, chipped tiles and design (toilet bowls are too big for nursery children). We strongly suggest that the state of these toilets are raised with the appropriate department and that changing nappies on the toilet floors should not take place until appropriate facilities are installed for nursery children.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
19 May 2015	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
5 Mar 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
14 Nov 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
27 Aug 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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